

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 8-12 are pending in the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2-7 and 13-151 have been canceled. The present amendments are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has acknowledged that claim 5 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have canceled claims 2-7 and 13-151 and have amended claim 1 to incorporate the all limitations of claims 1-5. Applicants assert that claim 1 as amended is allowable, and as such claims 8-12 which depend therefrom are also allowable.

2. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 1-4, 6-12 under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a). Applicants assert that amendments to the claims as discussed above render these rejections moot and request that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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